



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Protocol No. S2-P
Reviewed 01/07

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: **APPARENT LIFE-THREATENING EVENT (ALTE)**

I. BLS Treatment Protocol:

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. Prepare for transport / transfer of care.

II. ALS Treatment Protocol

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. Refer to appropriate protocol/s as needed.
- C. Transport.
- D. Contact Base Station.

Notes: BLS & ALS

- An Apparent Life threatening Event (ALTE) was formally known as a “near miss-SIDS” episode.
- An ALTE is an episode that is frightening to the observer (may think infant has died) and involves some combination of:
 1. apnea
 2. color change
 3. marked change in muscle tone (limpness, loss of tone)
 4. choking or gagging.
- Usually occurs in infants <12 months old. However, any child <2 years who exhibits symptoms of apnea may be considered an ALTE.
- 50% have a possible identifiable etiology (e.g. abuse, SIDS, swallowing dysfunction, infection, bronchitis, seizures, CNS anomalies, tumors, cardiac disease, chronic respiratory disease, upper airway obstruction, metabolic abnormalities, anemia, etc.)
- Gather accurate history of the episode, including severity, duration, provocation, as well as an accurate patient history.
- **If the parent or guardian refuses medical care/transport, Base Station MD contact is mandatory prior to completing a refusal of medical care.**